

Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 SSO-00 AGR-10 EB-07 AID-05 /038 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8043

UNCLAS JAKARTA 15618

FOR OPIC, GRAHAM WILLIAMS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIN, BAGB, ID

SUBJECT: AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL PROGRAM-STEPS TWO AND THREE

REF: A)STATE 290533, B) JAKARTA 14333

1. SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF AGRCLTURE OFFICIAL DISMAYED THAT AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL (ABC) PLANNING TO SEND TECHNICAL TEAM DEC. 5 AND REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE TO POSTPONE MEETING. PREREQUISITES FOR VISIT NOT YET FULFILLED AND GOI OFFICIALS NOT AVAILABLE, HE SAID.

2. DR. DR. ALHAMBRA RACHMAN, CHIEF, BUREAU OF INVESTMENT, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COORDINATOR FOR ABC PROGRAM, CALLED EMBASSY AFTERNOON DEC. 3 TO EXPRESS DISMAY AT TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM ABC THAT IT S TECHNICAL TEAM, HEADED BY HAROLD J. ARENSMEYER, WILL ARRIVE DEC.5 AND REQUESTED EMBASSY'S HELP TO POSTPONE TRIPS. ALHAMBRA POINTED OUT THAT PREREQUISITES FOR TEAM'S ARRIVAL HAVE NOT YET BEEN MET, AND THAT APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIALS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE. IN ADDITION, HE HAD DOUBTS ABOUT PROPOSED COMPOSITION OF TEAMS.

3. ALHAMBRA SAID THAT ACCORDING TO HIS UNDERSTANDING, GOI WAS TO ISSUE AND INVITATION TO TEAM BEFORE ITS VISIT COULD BE SCHEDULED. BEFORE THAT INVITATION COULD BE FORTHCOMING, ABC WAS TO HAVE PREPARED A REPORT FOR WHICH PRESIDENT SUHARTO HWD ASKED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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OCT. 30 MEETING. ALHAMBRA SAID THAT ARENSMEYER

HAD AGREED TO SUBMIT DRAFT REPORT TO HIM FOR HIS REVIEW AND COMMENT BEFORE FINAL VERSION REPORT SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT. BECAUSE NEIGHER DRAFT NOR FINAL VERSION REPORT HAD YET BEEN SUBMITTED, ALHAMBRA SAID, HE HAD NOT MOVED TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF GOI PORTION OF EXPENSES FORSTEP TWO/THREE.

4. FURTHER, ALHAMBRA SAID THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT GOI, IN ITS INVITATION, WOQLD SPECIFY TYPES OF EXPERTS IT THOUGHT APPROPRIATE FOR STUDIES. HE WENT THROUGH WITH EMBOFF COMPANIES LISTED IN ABC TELEGRAM AND HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT APPROPRIATENESS OF MOST OF THEM.

5. ALHAMBRA ADDED THAT MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IS IN MECCA AND WILL NOT BE RETURNING UNTIL MID-DECEMBER, BARLI HALIM, CHAIRMAN OF INVESTMENT BOARD ALSO ON HAJ, SECRETARYS-GENERAL OF AGRICULTURELEAVING TOWN MID-DECEMBER AND ALHAMBRA HIMSELF PLANNING TWO-WEEK BUSINESS TEIP BEGINNING DEC.5.

6. ALHAMBRA SAID THAT HE HWD TRIED, THROQGH INDONESIAN MISSION IN NEW YORK TO PERSUADE ABC TO POSTPONE TRIP. HOWEVER, HE HAD RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL THIS MORING THAT RIP WAS STILL ON.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: REQEUST THAT WILLIAMS CALL ARENSMEYER ASAP (OFFICE PHONE (212)-682-2730) AND INFORM HIM THAT TRIP AT PRESENT TIME WILL NOT ONLY BE WASTE OF TIME BUT ALSO WILL BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN TERMS OF FURTURE COOPERATION FORM GOI. COMMENT: ABC HAS BEEN ADVISED BY EMBASSY THAT ITS TIGHTLY DRAWN SCHEDULE FOR PROGRAM LIKELY TO RUN INTO DELYAS. (REF.B) WISH TO POINT OUT FURTHER THAT ATTEMPT TO STICK TO SCHEDULE AT EXPENSE OF FULFILLING AGREED COMMITMENTS AND FOLLOWING APPROPRIATE PROCEDURES IS CERTAIN TO DRASTICALLY REDUCE CHANCES SUCCESS OF PROGRAM.

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